



Children of Color in the Indiana Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, Education and Mental Health Systems

Identifying Overrepresentation & Disproportionality



Presenters

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Purpose of Presentation: **To Raise Awareness**

- Define terminology
- Share research about overrepresentation & disproportionality
- Share state data
- Identify current Indiana efforts
- Engage in dialogue for possible solutions



Defining the Problem

Children of color are disproportionately and often overrepresented in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.



Defining the Problem (cont.)

Disproportionality: Refers to the situation where a particular racial and/or ethnic group is represented within a social system **at a rate or percentage that is not proportionate** to their representation in the general population.



Defining the Problem (cont.)

Over-representation: Refers to the situation where a particular racial and/or ethnic group is represented within a social system at a **higher rate or percentage** than their representation in the general population.



Defining the Problem

Child Welfare

- **Children of Color enter foster care at a higher rate**
- **They are removed more often, rather than receiving in-home services.**
- **They stay in the system much longer.**
- **Less likely to reunite with families or be adopted from foster care.**

Juvenile Justice

- **Children of Color are treated more severely at every step of the juvenile justice system.**
- **They receive longer sentences.**
- **They're more likely to be charged with a violent offense.**
- **More likely to be sentenced to juvenile prison on drug charges.**



Defining the Problem

Education

- Nationally and in Indiana, Black male students receive disciplinary action more often than students of any other race or gender.
- Black males are three times more likely to be held back than White males.
- In Indiana, Black children are four times more likely and Hispanic children are two times more likely to receive out of school suspensions than Whites.

Mental Health

- National studies have proven that Black youth, ages 13-17, are more likely to be referred to mental health facilities than White youth the same age.
- In the US minority youth are underserved compared to White youths by services such as counseling and psychotherapy.
- Researchers have found a direct correlation between the number of children of color underserved by the mental health system and the number entering the juvenile justice system.



National Trends

Child Welfare

In almost every state, children of color are over-represented in the child welfare system:

- **African Americans in 46 states.**
- **Native American in 24 states.**
- **Latinos in 6 states.**



National Trends

Juvenile Justice

Black youth are referred to juvenile court at twice the rate of whites.

- **Of all juvenile arrests for violent crimes, 55 percent involved white youth, 42 percent involved black youth. Following arrest, however, blacks are detained eight times more often than whites.**



Looking At The Numbers

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2.719372
9 ÷ 1



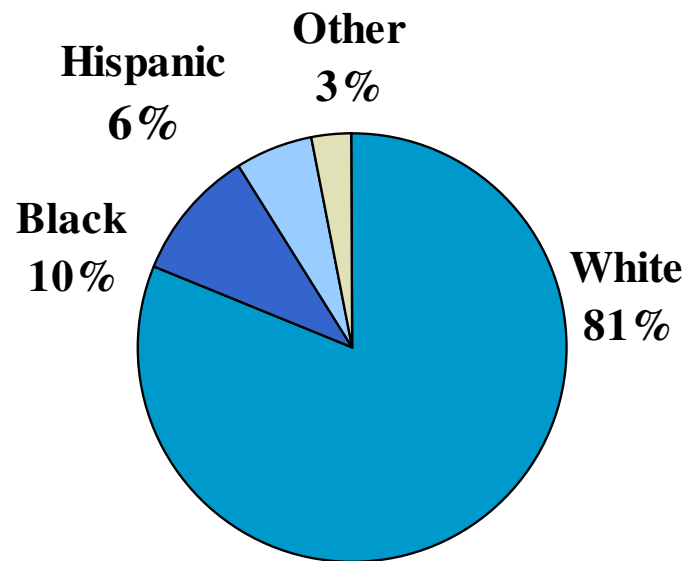
Indiana Child Welfare

Indiana's YOUTH Population

In 2005, Indiana Youth's population consisted of:

81% White
10% Black
6% Hispanic
3% Other

U.S. Census Bureau, 2005

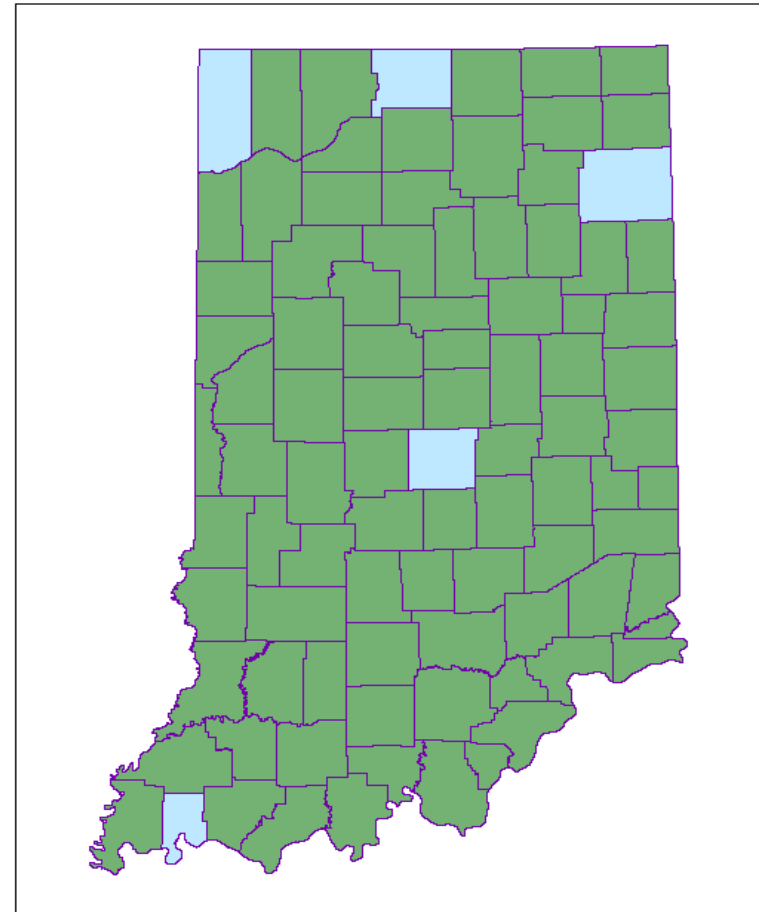


Indiana General Population

Black Populations are concentrated in few counties:

81% of Blacks live in 5 counties: Allen, Lake, Marion, St. Joseph, and Vanderburgh

81 Percent of Blacks Live in Five Counties

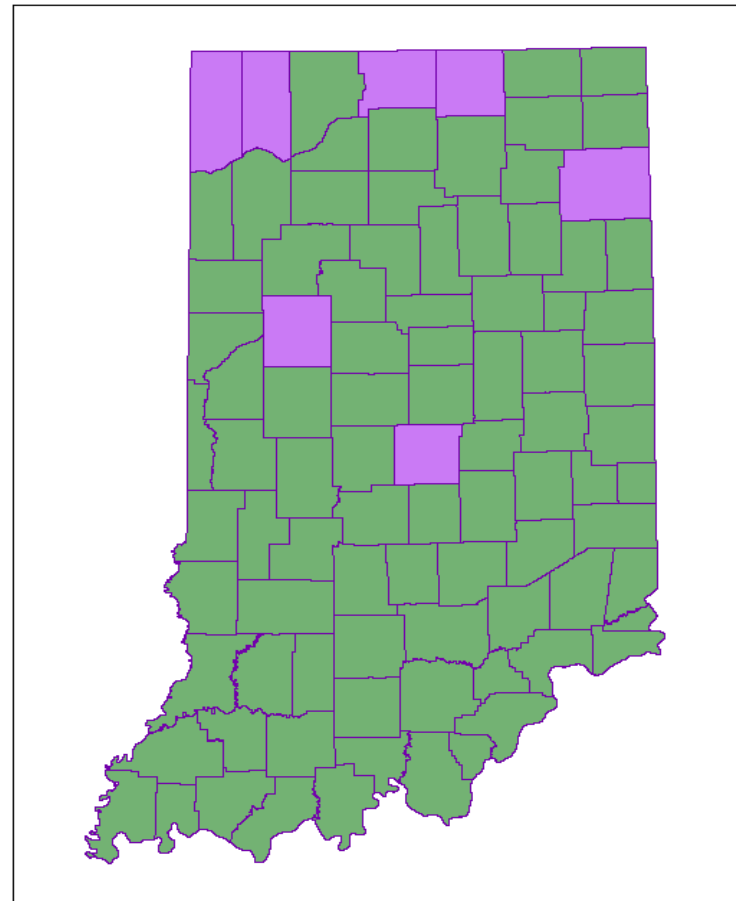


Indiana General Population

67 Percent of Hispanics Live in Seven Counties

Hispanic Populations are concentrated in few counties:

67% of Hispanics live in 7 counties: Allen, Elkhart, Lake, Marion, St. Joseph, and Tippecanoe



Indiana Out-of-Home Care

Indiana's out-of-home care population in 2005 was made up of:

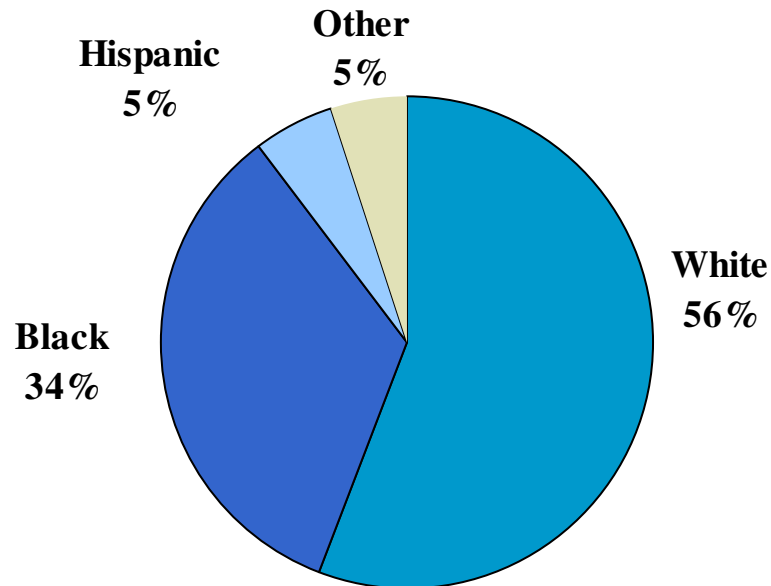
55.6% White

34.3% Black

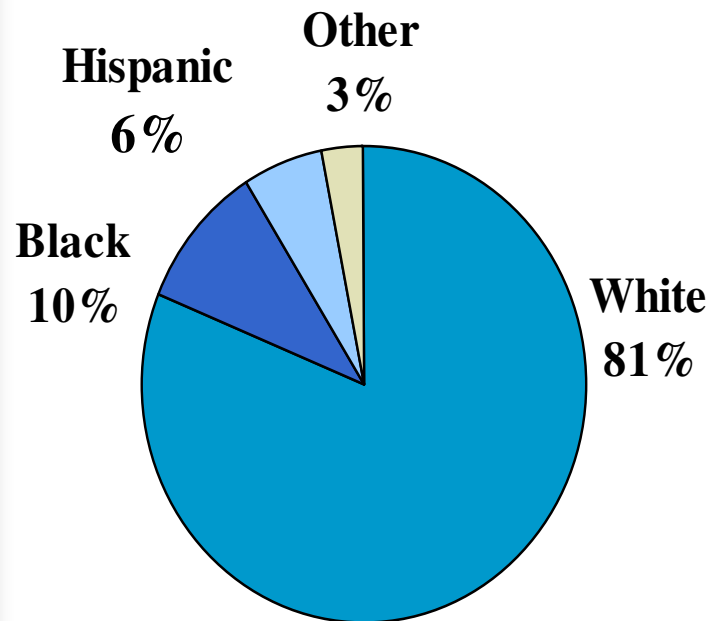
5.5% Hispanic

5% Other

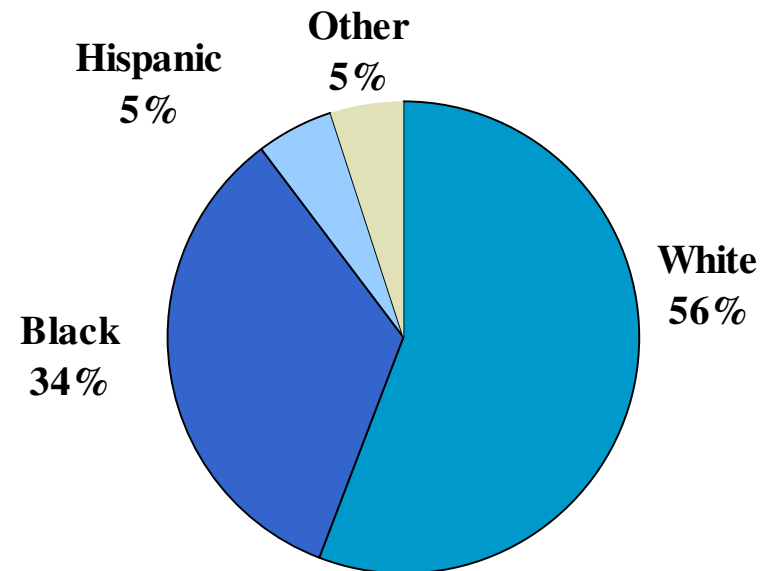
(Special tabulation, AFCARS by CWLA).



Side by Side Comparison



Indiana
Youth Population



Indiana
Out-of-Home Care

Indiana Trends



Child Welfare

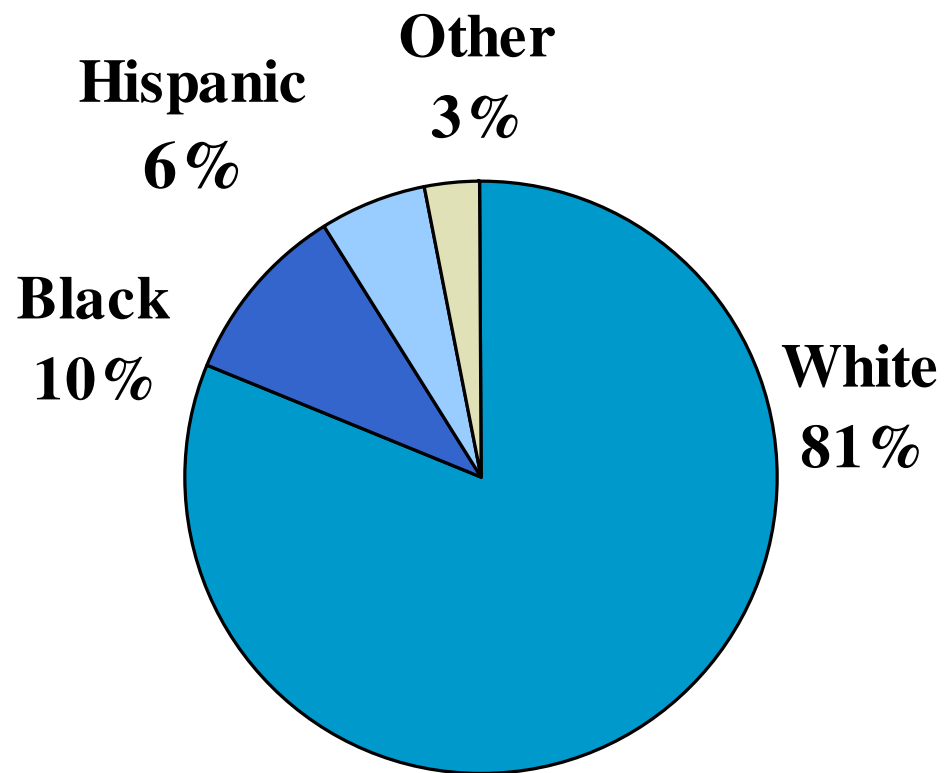
Race Matters found Indiana is one of 16 states that has been found to have “Extreme Disproportion” in Foster Care (*3.50 and over is considered extreme*).

Indiana’s rate for 2000 data was 3.79

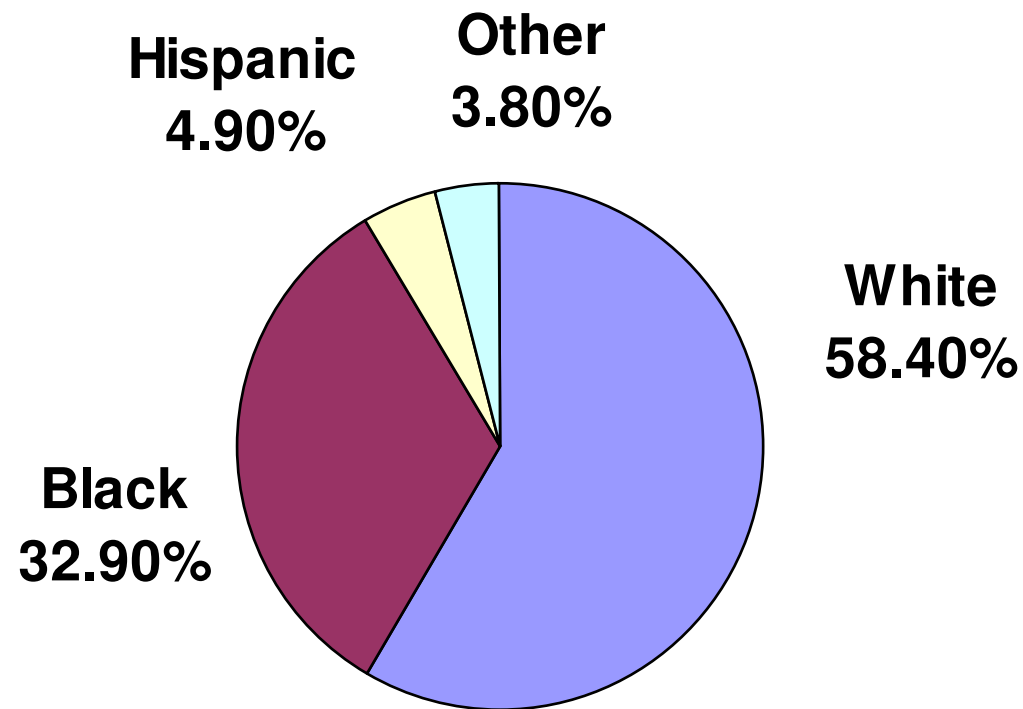


Juvenile Corrections

Indiana Youth Population 2005



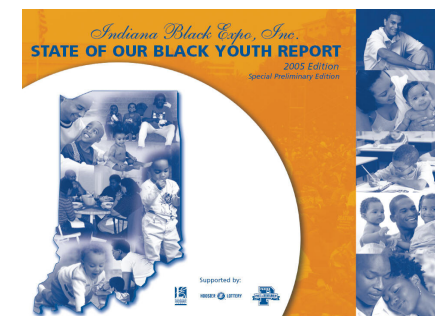
Juvenile Males Detained in Indiana DOC by Race, 2005



Marion County stats by RACE

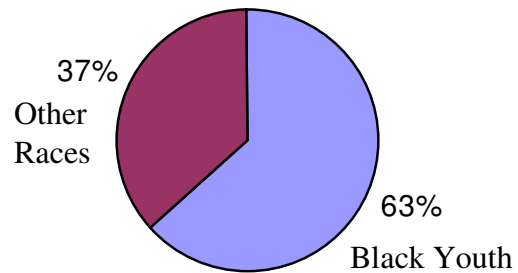
Marion County Youth	Black	Total	% Black
# of Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings (CY)	3,062	5,132	60%
# of Juvenile Status Case Filings (CY)	742	1,670	44%
# of Juveniles Committed to the Department of Correction (CY)	226	360	63%

Source: Indiana Black Expo. State of Our Black Youth Report. Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Black Expo, 2005.

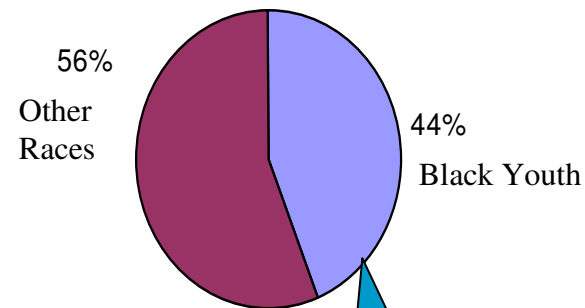


The Big Picture

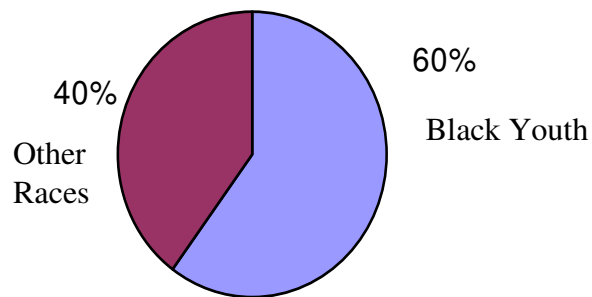
**Black Youth in Marion County
Committed to DOC**



**Black Youth in Marion County:
Juvenile Case Status Filings**



**Black Youth in Marion County:
Juvenile Delinquent Case Filings**



**Remember Black Youth
represent 30% of the youth population
in Marion County !!!**



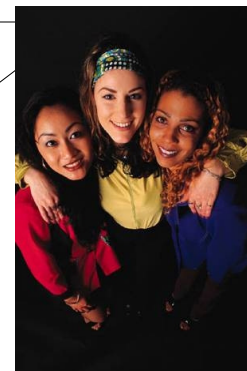
Indiana Disproportionality: What are the causes?

- Poverty
- Great frequency of reporting
- Higher visibility in systems that report.
- Worker bias
- Lack of cultural competency training requirements.
- Decision-maker bias
- Increased visibility and/or more patrolling of specific areas
- Subjective judgments
- Unequal policies
- Lack of cultural competency training requirements

(The Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care, 2004)

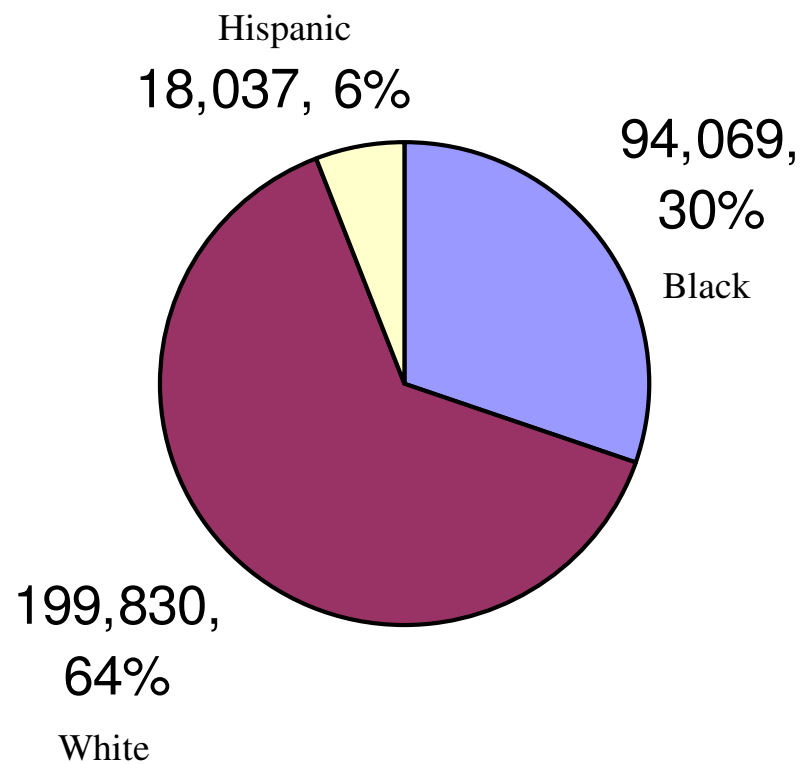
(Pathways to Juvenile Detention Reform: Reducing Racial Disparities, n.d., p.14)

Theories



Minority Students represent 205,454 children enrolled in an Indiana Public School System.

Suspensions by Race: 2003



Source: Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males 2003



Education

- According to the Indiana Department of Education in 2003 there were 320,929 student suspensions from Indiana public schools.
- 6% of students who are Black males accounted for 19.4% of the suspensions (including students suspended multiple times).



Summary: Special Education

- African Americans are identified for special ed disproportionately, and are placed in more restrictive settings
- Disproportionality is found in categories that require significant human interpretation
- Disproportionality in restrictiveness of placement not due to more severe disability categories
- Poverty does not explain disproportionality



Addressing Disproportionality...



What is being done Nationally?

- Greater visibility and prioritization overall.
- More research being done
- *Race Matters Consortium*
- Casey Foundation
- Center for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)
 - *State Advisory Groups* in all 50 States.



What about in Indiana?

Indiana Disproportionality Committee

Representatives from State child welfare and juvenile justice systems (public and private) have come together to establish the Indiana Disproportionality Committee.

- **VISION**: Children of all races and ethnicities being equitably served by Indiana's human service systems.
- **MISSION**: Create equality within the Indiana child welfare and juvenile justice systems and equalize the proportion of children of color in human service systems with their percentage of the overall population.

Also in Indiana...

- **State of Black Youth Report (SOBY) by Indiana Black Expo (IBE) Regional Initiatives**
- **Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) – Marion County was selected by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to be a site**
- **IARCCA's Outcome Measures Project**
- **Including DMC presentation into MSW Curriculum**
- **IU Center for Education and Evaluation Policy (CEEP) collaboration**
- **Children and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) – Mental Health Statewide Assessment Initiative**
- **Full-time DMC Coordinator at ICJI**
- **Collaboration efforts with Department of Education (DOE)**
- **Collaboration efforts with Indiana Minority Health Coalition (IMHC)**
- **Indiana Civil Rights Commission – PBIS Cultural Responsive Initiative**

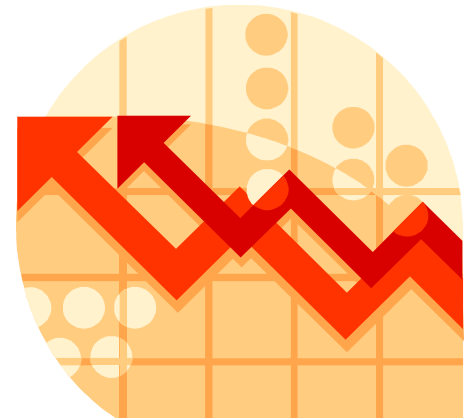




IDC

Recommendations for Change

- Encourage community building, including employment opportunities and networking with non-traditional services
- Make racial related/driven data more effectively and consistently available to the public
- Mandate diversity training for every State agency
- Require culturally competent practices at all levels
- Partnerships in the equity solution among all sectors
- Encourage consistent collection of data
- Increase prevention services & programs
- Change policies and practice guidelines
- Compare Indiana efforts to other States
- Make services accountable



Impacted Professionals

Probation

Attorney

Prosecutor

Citizen

Social Worker

Child Welfare (Private)

Faith-Based

Law Enforcement

Mental Health

Public Defender

Community Leader

Juvenile Justice

Firefighters

Education

Judiciary

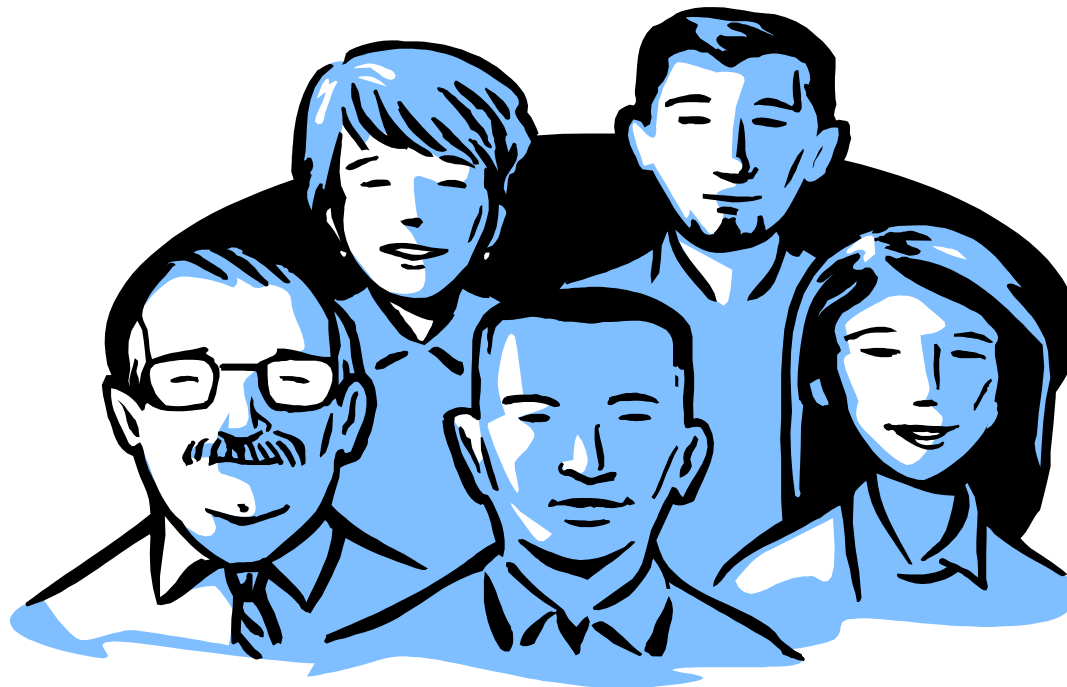
Health Care

Legislator

Child Welfare (Public)

CASA/GAL

Other





**What do you see as being effects
of Disproportionality
on **YOUR** work?**

Engaging Yourself

- Acknowledge the problem.
- Provide quality services.
- Ask questions and become informed.
- Invest in children.
- Insist on realistic public policies.
- Advocate for change.
- Spread the word.
- Are you aware of other possible partners?
- What are your suggestions and recommendations?





Thank You

Indiana Disproportionality Committee

**Working together to make connections
and find solutions.**